

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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| Applicant: | Tomoya Takahashi | Examiner: | Unassigned |
| Serial No: | To be assigned | Art Unit: | Unassigned |
| Filed: | Herewith | Docket: | 17297 |
| For: | ILLUMINATION CONTROL SYSTEM AND ILLUMINATION CONTROL METHOD FOR ENDOSCOPE SYSTEMS | Dated: | December 3, 2003 |

Mail Stop Patent Application
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, it is requested that the following references, which are also listed on the attached Form PTO-1449, be made of record in the above-identified case.

1. Japanese Patent Application Laid Open No. 9-197294, published July 31, 1997 together with an English language abstract;
2. Japanese Patent Application Publication No. 6-245900, published September 6, 1994 together with an English language abstract;

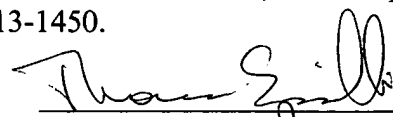
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. § 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, Mail Stop Patent Application, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Dated: December 3, 2003

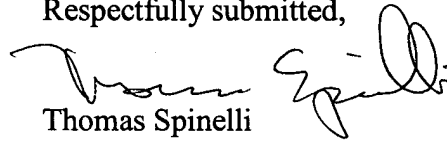

Thomas Spinelli

3. Japanese Patent Application Publication No. 1-170436, published July 5, 1989 together with an English language abstract; and
4. Japanese Patent No. 2882609, dated February 5, 1999 together with an English language abstract of corresponding Japanese Patent Application Laid Open No. 3-68330.

Applicant is submitting copies of the above-cited references. The relevance of the reference 4 has been described in the specification.

Inasmuch as this Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted in accordance with the schedule set out in 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b), no statement or fee is required.

Respectfully submitted,



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